

THE WEEK IN WASHINGTON.

CHAT OF THE CORRIDORS.

Bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate to amend the McKinley tariff act so as to put a duty of five-tenths of a cent upon all sugars above No. 16, Dutch standard, in color, and an additional one-tenth provided the sugar is imported from a country which pays a bounty. These bills also admit free of duty all machinery purchased abroad which is to be used in the production of beet sugar. Senator Felton and Representative Bond, both of California, are the authors of the

The way the bad boys outwitted a policeman.

PENSION BUREAU INVESTIGATION.

The House Committee on Territories has been for some time considering Delegates Joseph's bill for the admission of the Territory of New Mexico into the Union as a State, and they will undoubtedly make a favorable report on the bill in a short time. It has been shown that New Mexico has a sufficient population to become a State, and the chances are that before the end of the first session of the 53d Congress another Star will be added to "Old Glory."

SCORING THE HEALTH OFFICER.

Senators Don't Like the Way the City is Cleaned

Representative Harter, of Ohio, the leader of the anti-free-coinage Democrats of the House of Representatives, proposes to make Senator David B. Hill, of New York, show his hand on the silver question. Consequently, he has written Senator Hill a letter requesting him to give his views publicly on the subject, as the

If the cheese-paring policy inaugurated by the House of Representatives does not interfere, in a few years the United States will have the most formidable navy afloat. A bill was reported by Senator Hale, of Maine, from the Committee on Naval Affairs of the Senate on Wednesday, March 9, providing for a further increase of the Navy. The bill authorizes the construction of three battleships of 7,500 to 10,000 tons displacement; two armored coast defense vessels; five gunboats of 800 to 1,200 tons displacement, and eight first-class torpedo boats, and appropriates \$3,000,000 toward their construction and \$1,000,000 toward their armament. Premiums are also provided for increased speed of the ships. If the Secretary of the Navy cannot contract for the building of these vessels at reasonable prices, he is authorized to construct them at such Navy-yards as he may think best. Five hundred thousand dollars is set apart by the bill for experiment with and procurement of torpedoes. Of course these experiments will cost very much more money than the bill appropriates, as this amount is only for the commencement of work upon the ships, and additional appropriations will be made as fast as needed. The House may oppose this measure, however, but the war talk with Great Britain which was had in Executive session of the Senate over the Bering Sea question last week may have a tendency to open the eyes and hearts of some of the cheese-paring Congressmen and secure the passage of the bill.

All of Cleveland's friends in Washington say the action of the House on the silver question makes it practically of little concern whom the Republicans may nominate, and the Republicans throughout the country are of a like opinion.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

POSTMASTERS IN SESSION.

conference of the Postmasters of the principal cities of the United States was in session last week, discussing various matters brought their attention by Postmaster-General Wamaker. On Thursday, March 10, the conference was entertained by the Postmaster-General at a noon breakfast at his residence, at which President Harrison, Vice-President Morgan, the members of the Cabinet, the members of the Postoffice Committees of both Houses of Congress, and the Postmaster-General were present. The Postoffice officials were also guests. After the breakfast, which was a very enjoyable affair, the members of the Conference repaired to the Postoffice Department, and resumed their business. Measures to expedite the business of the postal-service at the least possible expense were discussed and many recommendations were made to the Postmaster-General, who will transmit them to Congress, hoping for favorable action upon them by the Senate and House. One of the projects favored by the conference was a system of pneumatic tubes, or other devices, to be used in large cities, whereby the transportation of mails between the depots and postoffices and the various postoffices and postoffices may be performed more rapidly than has heretofore been possible by the use of wagons or street railways, and that the same be requested to appropriate \$20,000 for the employment of experts to report upon the means and devices to that end. They also recommended the modification of existing laws and regulations so as to permit examination by Civil Service Boards of applicants for letter-carrier positions of 18 years of age. They also adopted a resolution recommending the organization of County or District associations of Postmasters, and the use of every possible method available to them for the rapid transmission of postal business. They also recommended the enactment of a law by Congress regulating the carrying of second-class matter in the mails, embodying the following: That a list of subscribers to a newspaper shall in no case be considered bona fide that does not contain 100 copies. All sample copies of newspapers entered to second-class rates shall have the words "sample copies" marked on the wrappers. Subscriptions to a newspaper shall not be considered legitimate when paid for by advertisers, and papers mailed under such conditions shall be charged as first-class matter. Subscriptions to newspapers shall be considered bona fide when three months for weeklies, semi-weeklies, and tri-weeklies; six months for monthlies, semi-monthlies, and bi-monthlies, and one year for quarterly publications.

The Military Academy appropriation bill, as reported from the Senate Committee on Appropriations on Friday, March 11, by Senator Cullum, of Illinois, carries an appropriation of \$48,827, an increase of \$3,162 over the amount appropriated and passed by the House some weeks ago. The principal item of increase is for enlarging and increasing the gas plant at the Academy. Some of the sums appropriated by the House are reduced. If the bill passes the Senate in its present shape there will be a struggle between the Conference Committees of the two Houses.

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs examined on Friday, March 11, a newly-patented machine-firing gun, which the inventor claims is superior to all other rapid-firing guns in existence. The inventor exhibited the working of the gun to Senators Hawley, Frye, and Jackson, Maj. Martin Maginnis, of Montana, and A. W. Lyman. Instead of being fired from the top, as in most other rapid-firing guns, the bullets are fed from the rear by a simple lever, so that the gun can be fired by a simple lever, so that the gun can be fired in a minute on 250 to 300 shots can be fired in a minute. An. Anson McCook, who was also present, is regarded, like Senator Hawley, as an expert on this subject, and both were greatly pleased with the performance of the new self-piece, which even in its crude shape gives promise of becoming a remarkable implement of warfare.

Abuses have been practiced heretofore by adding upon the Government the heavy expenses of Congressional funerals, and some of these unsavory transactions are about to be brought to the attention of the public. It appears that the funeral of the late Congressman C. Hook, of Tennessee, cost over \$2,000, and included a brass coffin or casket which cost \$1,200, besides photographs, hat-bands, services of a stenographer, and any number of trinkets. These facts are now made public by the House Committee on Accounts, whose duty it is to pass upon the funeral bills. The Committee contemplate the introduction of a bill to limit such expenditures in the future, and the majority of the people, who pay the taxes, cannot see any good reason why the Government should pay the funeral expenses of Senators and Members of Congress, and it would be in order to enact a law doing away with such a practice altogether. The funeral of the late Senator Hearst, of California, was perhaps the most expensive one that the Government has ever called upon to pay for years, as it included railway fares for the Congressional Committee which conveyed the body to San Francisco, as well as the expense of carrying the corpse and the Senator's family, who were abundantly able to have paid all the expenses of the funeral themselves.

Quite a brisk little breeze was created in the senate one day last week, occasioned by a controversy between Mr. Doolittle, of Oregon, and Mr. Berry, of Arkansas. The bill to provide for the repayment of purchase money and commissions paid on void entries of land was under consideration, and Mr. Berry objected with considerable vehemence to its consideration under the five-minute rule. Mr. Doolittle had charge of the bill, and remarked that there was no necessity for the Senator from Arkansas to se his temper. To this Mr. Berry replied that he had a perfect right to make the remark that he did, and that so far as his temper was concerned, it was not under the control of the Oregon Senator. Mr. Doolittle said that if Mr. Berry had given offense to Mr. Berry, he could withdraw them, which was entirely satisfactory to that gentleman; but the waters were again disturbed by Mr. Doolittle remarking under his breath that he was glad the temper of the Senator from Arkansas was not under his sleeping. "What's that?" asked Mr. Berry, and when the remark was repeated he answered with considerable emphasis: "I certainly would not select the Senator from Oregon for any and any other purpose connected with my present position, but in the business of the upper branch of Congress proceeded with its usual sedivity."

The President and Mrs. Harrison entertained at dinner on Thursday, March 10, Dr. von Holleben, the new Minister from Germany to the United States. The other guests present were Mr. and Mrs. Potter Palmer, of Chicago, Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, Senator and Mrs. Davis, of Minnesota; Senator and Mrs. Carey, of Wyoming; Representative and Mrs. Henderson, of Iowa; Representative and Mrs. Bradsworth, of New York; Representative

train, of Texas; Representative and Mrs. Canth, of Kentucky; Representative and Mrs. Huff, of Pennsylvania; Gen. and Mrs. Shields, Miss Dodge, Miss Blaine, Mrs. Russell Harri-

Quite a large party of guests enjoyed a musicale at the White House on Thursday afternoon, March 10, from 5 to 6 o'clock, at which Miss Alberta Howard, of Boston, sang most harmfully. The difficult numbers selected were rendered with a style and finish which showed the compass and flexibility of an unusually powerful voice. Miss Howard is a friend of Mrs. Kilbourne, who introduced her to Mrs. Harrison. She sang in the Green Parlor, accompanying herself upon the piano, the party standing around the room or in the corridors during the musical treat. At the conclusion of the singing tea was served in the Red Parlor, Miss Breckinridge presiding at a small round table.

A member of Congress who served four years in the ranks in a Western regiment, said to the Gossiper last week, that it was a burning shame that the House of Representatives could always get a quorum when claims were up to pay some of the ex-loyals (justancing the case of the First Methodist Church at Jackson, Tenn., which was voted \$10,000 on Saturday, March 12, when it was utterly impossible to get a quorum to attend any session of the House which was set aside for private pension legislation. He said these last claims were always just claims, while the former were not, as the South had been given every opportunity to prove these claims years ago, and agents had been sent all over that country to investigate the loyalty of these claimants. It is a well-known fact that the Methodist Church South was nearly as intensely disloyal during the war as the Methodist Church of the North was loyal, and to pay them now for the use of their old church is not worth half the amount the bill passed by the House on Saturday appropriated, it is simply outrageous. The two Texas gentlemen who are mentioned in our Congressional report as being objectors to almost everything, permit these kind of claims to pass generally, but Mr. Kilgore is always on hand on Friday evenings to raise the point of no quorum to cut off the deserving people who are justly entitled to pensions from Congress, the general law not covering these cases. Our veteran Western Congressman, before alluded to, thinks very justly that such conduct is a crying shame to any party that professes to be friendly to pension legislation.

While the bill to grant reduced rates of transportation to commercial travelers was pending in the House of Representatives the other day, Sockless Jerry Simpson, the Kansas statesman, proposed the measure, and while speaking referred to the author of the Interstate Commerce law—Senator Cullom, of Illinois,—as an "iniquitous railroad attorney." At once Mr. Lind, of Minnesota, called the honorable Jerry to order, and Speaker Crisp said that Mr. Simpson was clearly out of order. To this the Kansas statesman replied: "Well, I will withdraw that. I beg pardon. I am a new member and do not know your rules. But that is the way we talk in Kansas. We are plain-speaking people."

Secretary Blaine is convalescing and Congressman Springer improving. Each are expected at their respective desks next week.

ARMY AND NAVY.
J. H. Hetherington, a Lieutenant of the Junior Grade of the United States Navy, recently shot and killed George Robinson, an Englishman, at Yokohama, Japan, for alienating his wife's affections. He met Robinson while the latter was out driving, and mortally wounded him with a revolver, the latter dying of his wounds. Hetherington was appointed to the Junior Grade of the Navy in 1874. He was serving on the Asiatic Station at the time of the shooting. He is in jail awaiting trial by a Consular Court, as the courts of Japan do not have jurisdiction over American citizens.

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In reporting the Navy appropriation to the House on Thursday, March 10, Mr. Herbert C. Hooper, chairman of the committee on naval affairs, said that the committee had made a very careful examination into the manner in which the money appropriated for the Navy which has been expended, and, while they found nothing to condemn and nothing to commend, they were being led to a rather unenthusiastic belief that the money has been expended in a plain, honest, and judicious manner, which they recommend, and disaffected without any injury to the service, and that in view of the condition of the Treasury it ought to be done.

VETERANS IN THE CITY.
H. M. Howell, Co. E, 124th N. Y. Howell's Depot, N. Y. Comrade Howell, who evidently is one of the veterans who have prospered since the war, was yesterday in the city with his wife and some friends, going over the old landmarks, grounds, which he has not visited before for years. He was much impressed with the improvements that have been made since his last visit to the capital, and especially with the new Court House.

Thomas G. Sample, 23d and 127th Pa. Allegheny, Pa. Comrade Sample is Secretary of the Fire Bureau of that city. He is a member of Post 139, G.A.R., Department of Pennsylvania.

Dr. John E. Mason Dead.

Dr. John Edward Mason, for many years an employee of the Interior Department, died at his residence in Washington on Saturday, March 5, and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with appropriate honors by the Grand Army and the Loyal Legion, he having been a member of both these organizations. He has lived in Washington since the close of the war.

Dr. Mason was born in New Hampshire in 1832. During his early manhood he followed the profession of civil-engineer and made an enviable record. He surveyed the State and drew the maps as they exist to-day. He enlisted in the army at the breaking out of the rebellion, going into the field as Lieutenant of the 9th N. H. Lieut. Mason served in various capacities in the army until March, 1865, when he was discharged for disabilities incurred in the service. After leaving the army he came to this country and obtained a position in the General Land Office. He was afterward transferred to the Pension Office, and at the time of his death held a high position in that Bureau.

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